

Dear Public Lands Committee,

I firmly oppose any possible transfer or sale of federal public lands in Idaho. While the federal government certainly has room for improvement in regards to managing these lands, the simple fact remains that Federal ownership is the best place to ensure long term protection of these lands for future generations to use. Not to mention, having these lands in state ownership would likely create undo burden on state budgets, likely resulting in these lands being sold.

Look around the room and ask how many local people or groups could afford to buy even a small piece of these federal lands. Likely there is nobody in this financial position. Only a very select few extraordinarily wealthy individuals or large corporations could afford such an investment. Now ask yourself how likely it is that a corporation or wealthy individual would continue to allow essentially free public access to this land.

Please don't let Idaho turn into Texas. In my opinion, our federal public lands are the greatest resource Idaho has. Please leave them in public hands so current residents and future generations have the amazing opportunity to enjoy these amazing places.

The simple fact that these Public Lands meetings are scheduled in the middle of the elk rut and on opening day of deer rifle season shows that the state is out of touch with sportsmen. I would love to be there in person to share more thoughts, but I will actually be out enjoying our great public lands, chasing deer and elk as I have done for the past 25 years and hope to do for the next 50 years to come.

I hunt, I fish, and I LOVE public lands. Transferring these lands is a risky proposition that I strongly oppose.

Josh Kuntz  
Boise, ID